Case	e <mark>1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG - Document 12</mark> 4	<mark>⊧ Filed 07/20/16 Page 1 of 24 PageID</mark> #. 744
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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
2		
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	12-CR-134 (BMC)
4	Plaintiff,	United States Courthouse Brooklyn, New York
5	-against-	May 13, 2016
6	IBRAHIM SULEIMAN ADNAN ADAM HARUN,	11:30 a.m.
7	Defendant.	
8		
9	TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR STATUS CONFERENCE BEFORE THE HONORABLE BRIAN M. COGAN UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE	
10	APPEARANCES	
11		
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Case	1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 2 of 24 PageID #: 745
	Proceedings
1	(Interpreter sworn.)
2	THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: United States versus Adnan
3	Hausa, Docket number 12-CR-134.
4	Counsel, please state your appearances, starting
5	with the government.
6	MR. ARIAL: Good morning, Your Honor. Shreve Arial,
7	Melody Wells and Matt Jacobs for the United States.
8	MR. JACOBS: Good morning.
9	MS. WELLS: Good morning.
10	THE COURT: Good morning.
11	MR. STERN: David Stern and Joshua Dratel for
12	Mr. Harun.
13	MR. JACOBS: Good morning, Your Honor.
14	THE COURT: Good morning.
15	All right, the defendant is not present. Let me
16	explain for the record how that came about, and then I'm going
17	to solicit input from the marshal, who is also present, and
18	ask the attorneys what they think we ought to do about it.
19	Just to very briefly recount the history of the
20	case. The defendant has either refused to be brought to court
21	from the MDC on prior occasions for conferences, or has been
22	disruptive once we have brought him into court and thus has
23	not been present.
24	I had signed previously, as we discussed at the last
25	conference, I had signed a force order requiring the marshals

Proceedings

to use whatever forces necessary to bring him today to the proceeding.

I received a call a little while ago, about an hour ago, from the marshals saying that force had been in fact required; that they had put him in the van, that they were concerned that he was so violent that he was going to kick out the windows on the van and they, therefore, had restrained his hands and feet with shackles. Not withstanding those restraints, the defendant had managed to tear his clothing to shred and, therefore, arrived in court wearing nothing but underwear.

I talked to the marshals about whether it would be possible to dress him. The marshals said they could get a shirt on him and have him sit here in his underwear. I said that's not acceptable. They said it would be very difficult to get pants back on him because they would have to unshackle his feet and put pants on him.

And I said at that point, subject to input from the parties, I'm going to have the adjoining courtroom set up with a television monitor so that he can watch the proceedings with an interpreter and have the proceedings translated for him.

Now, as I took the bench today, I heard and I continue to hear as I'm here, the defendant is screaming incoherently, even though he is not in the courtroom, he's in the holding cell. I don't know if the lawyers can hear it as

Case	1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 4 of 24 PagetD $\#$. 747
	Proceedings
1	well as I can, I'm sure the defense lawyers can, but it's
2	quite loud.
3	Let me ask one of the marshals to first of all,
4	have I gotten it right? Tell me your name, sir.
5	MR. ELCIK: James Elcik, sir. E-L-C-I-K.
6	Yes, you have. And we spoke on the phone earlier.
7	THE COURT: Okay.
8	MR. ELCIK: And that is an accurate statement.
9	THE COURT: Is it possible to get him into the
10	adjoining courtroom so that he can watch these proceedings on
11	TV?
12	THE MARSHAL: Yes.
13	THE COURT: All right. Is there any reason why you
14	think we shouldn't do that?
15	THE MARSHAL: Aside from the fact that he may fight
16	with us. We're going to have to take him out of the cell
17	eventually to get him back downstairs anyway, so if that's
18	your wish, we will certainly comply.
19	THE COURT: Do any of the parties have a view on
20	this?
21	MR. STERN: May we have a moment, Your Honor to
22	discuss this?
23	THE COURT: Sure.
24	(Pause.)
25	MR. JACOBS: It was our position he shouldn't be

Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 5 of 24 PageID #. 748

Proceedings

brought today at all. We understood the Judge's and the government's position and he was brought.

It remains our position that there's no reason to endanger marshals or him. And while we have concerns about his mental health, we know he's been evaluated before, we continue to at least consider those concerns, but we don't want him brought into a courtroom where he can get involved in what can potentially result in more charges for him and more danger for the marshals and for him.

We tried to see him and I think it's fair to say it didn't have a favorable outcome. He's not going to gain by sitting in the other room because he doesn't listen to anything. So I would prefer he either be left where he is or just brought back and not make it more complex than it already is.

MR. STERN: Your Honor, if I could add, he did not engage us in a conversation where we could be heard and I don't think that will change even with the interpreter speaking on our behalf; he didn't listen, he yelled over us. I don't think it would be any different in a courtroom.

And in addition to the whole question of the marshal's safety and Mr. Harun's safety, I think that the restraints that are -- right now he's in a cell, the restraints that are going to be required to put him in a courtroom for the safety of the marshals and the interpreter I

Proceedings

think is going to aggravate the situation in terms of his hostility and his mental state. So I don't know that that would be a productive endeavor.

THE COURT: All right, I'll hear from the government.

MR. ARIAL: Your Honor, a couple of things just in terms of the narrative in terms of how things occurred this morning before Your Honor came out.

We were advised that the defendant had actually calmed down and was not overtly hostile. Subsequently, though, the defense counsel went in to speak with him and that's when the defendant became enraged and began cursing in English and then also speaking loudly and aggressively in a foreign language, which I presume is Hausa, which is his native tongue, and he also continues to speak in Hausa in an aggressive manner. So I just want to put that, make that clear.

MR. STERN: The interpreter told us some of it was Hausa and some of it was in an unidentifiable language, or maybe no language at all. But it's true that some was Hausa and it seems to be true that the interpreter hears it and apparently some of it was not a language at least he was familiar with and neither of us were familiar with.

MR. ARIAL: And the reason, as Your Honor is aware we brought the defendant here, and the safety concerns,

Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 7 of 24 PageID #. 750

Proceedings

obviously, are paramount here and particularly for the safety of the marshals, that's our major concern. But the reason we brought him here was so that we could actually inform him of the status of his case in some manner so that he knows he has a trial date that is scheduled for October 24th. So that he also knows that his defense attorneys intend to seek to adjourn that trial date for a substantial period of time, a year from now, to conduct investigative measures that by all accounts he disagrees with.

So I do appreciate that defense counsel is concerned about getting him upset by bringing him in here. I do appreciate that he's not listening to them. But that is his MO, that is his engagement with this process, which is to refuse to engage with this process. If we could at least have him present during the proceedings and we could actually orally communicate to him what's happening, that actually might, I believe, be helpful in terms of getting some kind of a record that he knows what's going on and he's engaged in.

THE COURT: Do you hear what's going on in there?

MR. ARIAL: I do, Your Honor.

MR. STERN: Judge, to the extent the government's concerned, we can get the transcript, have it translated into Hausa and mail a copy to him. That would be at least as effective as bringing him in here to holler and make sure no one else can be heard.

Proceedings

MR. ARIAL: And I'm not asking that he be brought into this courtroom at all, Your Honor. I'm not suggest that, I was suggesting the alternative, which was to place him in the adjourning courtroom so that he can hear the proceedings.

MR. JACOBS: Your Honor --

THE COURT: But if he's screaming at the top of his lungs, as he's continuing to do, he will not hear. That is the problem.

Look, I appreciate the fact that the government needs to do everything possible and I need to do everything possible to give him an understanding of what's going on.

But keep in mind we've had extensive mental health evaluations, and I have made the finding already that this is a defendant who, with a resolution that I have not seen in any other defendant, absolutely refused to acknowledge or participant or have any interest in these proceedings in any way and whose desire is simply to obstruct them as much as possible and shield himself from any knowledge.

And short of administering drug treatment to him to get him in a more somnolent state, which I don't hear anybody abdicating, I don't know how we're going to convey that information to him.

Your point -- I'm speaking to defense counsel -- of sending him the transcript in Hausa, the indication is going to be that he's going to rip it up, because he doesn't want to

Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 9 of 24 PageID #. 752

Proceedings

1 know. That's his way of defeating the system.

Now that does not mean I won't that. Again, we have to make every effort to try to do that. But there is a safety concern that everyone's acknowledged. Every time we require the marshals to put their hands on him, somebody is at risk to get hurt and I don't know that we gain anything from pushing it further than we have today.

MR. ARIAL: I guess, Your Honor, my concern is that he have the opportunity to hear what's going on. I'm with you. I don't think he's going to listen, I don't think he cares. But that at least he hears it from the Court, that he hears what's going on in here in another room that is not, you know, filled with defense counsel, government personnel, people who might cause him to be animated. That he at least hear what's happening so we know that he's heard it and we have that record.

I agree if we send the transcript to him, he'll rip it up and he'll throw it away before he even looks at it. And if we do that, then I think we would be comfortable proceeding. But that's our request.

THE COURT: All right, I have to balance the possible utility of the marshals laying hands on him again and literally strapping him into a chair in the adjourning courtroom and the unlikelihood that he is going to follow the proceedings at all. Also there will be some risk to the

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 10 of 24 PageID #: 751

Proceedings

interpreter who will be there. I have to balance that against the utility of his right to be present.

And I think the balance very easily comes out in favor of not making another physical confrontation that's not going to do him any good. That's especially so because the first thing we have to decide is when is the trial date. We haven't decided that. Are we going to have him strapped in next door for the 5, 10 or 15-minute conversation we need to have in order to do that? He certainly isn't going to give us any input on his views on that. I mean, we're all agreed on that.

So I see no reason to subject him or the marshals, or the interpreter or, frankly, defense counsel to any further physical altercations.

What I think I want to do is just keep him in the holding cell for now, let's talk about the trial date and then when we adjourn, defense counsel and the interpreter and the government as well, if it wants to be there, can go into the holding area and tell him: Your trial date is going to be at this time. And then at least there will have been an effort to communicate with him.

MR. STERN: Judge, I have two things to say: One is that, you know, I don't really think the government should go back there. He is in his underwear exposing himself. It's a very -- I don't know how to describe it, that's what it is.

Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 11 of 24 PageID #. 754

Proceedings

And they can be confident that we will go and tell him the things that you're suggesting we tell him. We can write a letter confirming that we told him those things. And by saying tell him, I mean the words will leave our mouths. What happens after that I don't know.

But the other suggestion, which I made before but I'm hoping something can done about it, is that if we can get a closed-circuit camera so that he can stay in his cell, they can set up the screen outside his cell. He could watch from there and not put the marshals at risk and not put him at risk. The interpreter can be there outside the cell translating for him or maybe through, I don't know the technology. But to bring him here like this isn't really good for him, isn't good for us, it isn't good for anybody, and doesn't really accomplish anything since we all acknowledge that in some ways we're going through the motions by informing him since he doesn't listen any way.

So if there's a trial in this case, and I expect there will be, maybe that way we wouldn't have to bring him every single day and go through this, and he would still be present.

THE COURT: You raise a valid point. But there is a question of how much in resources the government, and by that I mean particularly the BOP, should be required to use to indulge a defendant's absolute refusal to participate in the

Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 12 of 24 PagetD #. 75

Proceedings

process. On the other hand, I recognize we are using lots of resources to do this every time any way. That's for the next hearing, okay?

Maybe I will do that at the next hearing, just because there is no practical alternative. But for today's hearing, I'm just going to -- I think you are right there's no point in holding him there screaming. Let's get him back to his cell at the MDC. I am going to require defense counsel to convey to him the rulings made as we continue with the hearing today and confirm that they have done so by letter. And anything else they want to say to him is between them and him. And there is just no reason to keep making this more difficult than he's trying to make it. Okay.

Is it possible or is it a security issue to keep that door closed so we do not need to hear him screaming?

MR. ARIAL: Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. ARIAL: I'm sorry. I mean, our concern is that down the road there's some sort of an appeal. Obviously that's our main concern here. And if the only record we have that this defendant was notified of a trial date that came and went is through the expected testimony of Mr. Dratel or Mr. Stern or Miss Kellman, I'm not sure that's a great circumstance for us to be in.

I would just like for some objective manner for us

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 13 of 24 PagetD #: 756

Proceedings

to be able communicate to him what's going on, and maybe we can work this out after this appearance today.

THE COURT: You can try to do that. We will in addition to counsel communicating with him send him the translated transcript so that if he wants to read it, he can read it.

I'll issue a short order summarizing whatever rulings that I've made so it's only a couple of pages that has to be translated and he has to read.

MR. ARIAL: That's fine, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, I understand that you do not want an appeal or a 2255 after this, but I do not see one here, frankly. I think everybody here, defense counsel, the government, the marshals and myself and the interpreter have done everything possible to get the smallest amount of cooperation from this defendant. He's just made it as clear as he can that he is going to fight us at every opportunity.

That does not mean that we stop making efforts, but it does mean that we cannot put people at risk for the sake of protecting an issue from appeal that to me at this point, at this point -- and I do not know, I'm not going to predict what is happens going forward -- but at this point is not a real vulnerability of the case as to what happens in the future.

MR. ARIAL: Understood, Your Honor.

I was going to move on to the second issue at hand,

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 14 of 24 PageID #: 757

Proceedings

which is defense counsel's application to adjourn the trial date.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. ARIAL: Which the government continues to object to and I will just say to the Court when we left the Court last week, the idea, as I understood it, was defense counsel would reach out to the government and advise the government of what things, what requests it could potentially facilitate to give us some clarity in terms of what their needs were and what the basis for the actual adjournment was.

Thus far we've had no requests from the defense for any assistance in terms of the things that they are seeking, and we have no real understanding why they are actually seeking an adjournment, other than the representation that's been made ex parte. So we're at a difficult spot, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And you understand the irony of that, right? I mean, the irony of that is that the defendant is in a difficult spot because of the CIPA production protocol that does not let them know for sure that they have what they need to defend the case.

I have ex parte submissions from the government on that, and I've done the best I can to make sure that the defendants have what they need. But I am not the defense counsel, nevertheless the statute charges me with that role.

I also have, you may have not heard from the

Proceedings

defendant again, but I have, I've gotten a second ex parte letter, and let me say I know exactly why they are not talking to you about what they need, because if they were to talk to you about what they need, the only way I can conceive of to do that would be to disclose their investigative efforts and basically give you a roadmap to the defense.

And so here I am in the middle, where a judge always is, but a little unusually I am in the middle kind of mediating two sides who are, for different reasons, in partial darkness about where the case is going, and I have to make determinations of adequacy of your position and their position without either one of you giving me the benefit of whether you think each other's position is correct.

MR. ARIAL: And I understand that that is your role as a judge, obviously, Your Honor. But when we left last time, they had advised us that there were things that they thought we could them with, and I'm sure there are. I think if their theory of defense, whatever it might be, involves sending off investigators to Afghanistan, to Pakistan, to Libya, to places that are around the globe, war zones, you know, those sorts of expeditions, while I understand in a traditional case might be reasonable or easily obtained, here we're in a different circumstance, and I think we are in a position probably to assist them on those sorts of things.

And if they would engage with us, we might be able to resolve

Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 16 of 24 PageID #. 759

Proceedings

1 | some of that earlier.

THE COURT: Well, maybe. But the fact of the matter is, you can help them at a very -- at a 50,000-foot level, which is where it would have to stay. I'm not sure that kind of help would be of any assistance to them without disclosing to you what they want to do when they come down from that 50,000-foot level, or to say it another way, if they tell you they want to go to a certain area of Afghanistan, the government is going to be able to figure out why they are going, who they want to see and what they want to talk about.

MR. ARIAL: And if they do want to go to a certain part of Afghanistan, they are going to need the government's assistance, no doubt.

THE COURT: Some parts of it, yes. Look, we're using Afghanistan as an example. There may be other places. And I'm not saying they've said they want to go to Afghanistan. I'm not telling you anything about the strategy that they have told me, except I will say because I don't think it's confidential, they need to go places, okay, difficult places, some of which they can get to themselves without the government's assistance, some of which they may need the government's assistance, they may not.

But all of which, I think, to the extent they -- almost all of which, to the extent they brought the government in, would give the government an advantage in knowing where

BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 17 of 2 Proceedings their case is going that the government does not ordinarily 1 2 get in criminal prosecutions. That's the problem. 3 MR. ARIAL: And I understand these are not ordinary 4 criminal prosecutions. So to the extent that defense counsel 5 can and the Court can facilitate that process in terms of 6 making requests early, I'm sure in certain there are things 7 that we can do to assist them. 8 THE COURT: Don't be so sure. Having read their 9 letter, I'm just telling you, don't be so sure. 10 I know the desire to help is genuine. I am not 11 questioning that. And it's the desire to help being genuine 12 because you want to keep the trial date, so I understand it. 13 But there's a lot they have to do that they can do without 14 you, but it's going to be hard work whether they do it through 15 you or not. 16 All right. Anything the defendants need to add to 17 what I have just said? 18 MR. STERN: No. 19 MR. ARIAL: Your Honor, if I also may be heard in 20 terms of the delay. 21 THE COURT: Yes. 22 MR. ARIAL: I understand that there are

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investigative tasks that we aren't aware of. Again, I'm in

this position of advocating without full information as we

both sides are, apparently.

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Case 1.12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 18 of 24 PageID #. 76.1

Proceedings

However, as is it stands, the trial date is

October 24th. That is approximately six months from now. The adjournment that they seek, as I understand it, is to April of 2017. That is a year from now, and --

THE COURT: Well, it's a year from now, but it's only six months from the trial date, right, if it's six months adjourned.

MR. ARIAL: Yes, but that is a year from now. And that, from our perspective, regardless of what investigative task need to be done is a long time for a case that was charged four years ago for crimes that occurred many years ago; when we have victim family members who are seeking resolution in this case, when we've had significant adjournments due to issues that out of everybody's control, except for the defendant's, so if there is an adjournment, and it sounds like Your Honor is considering it given the statements you've said here earlier today, we would request that we proceed to trial by the end of the year or early in 2017 at the latest.

THE COURT: Anything to that?

MR. STERN: I guess only this: The government investigates cases for as long as they want under the Statute of Limitations and it indicts people and then they are ready and we get these massive cases with tons of information to be investigated, and they want us to do it in what they say is a

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 19 of 24 PageID #: 762

Proceedings

long time. But they take all the time they need and now, for reasons we've articulated to the best we can, we need this time. We feel like we have an immense amount to do.

THE COURT: All right. I am convinced by the defendant's ex parte submissions that there are -- the only thing that weighs against granting an adjournment is that there are things the defendants want to do, and if I were in their shoes I would want to do them, too, things that should be done, but I think there's some things they want that are not going to get done if I gave them a year or two years to do them. Nevertheless, they have got to make the effort.

And I want to talk about that for a minute because there was a suggestion at the last hearing that unless the defendant gives active instructions to defend to his attorneys, then they may not have an obligation to pursue those leads.

You want to worry about appellant issue or 2255 issues, that is the one to worry about, all right? The possibility that this defendant might go ahead and a month before the scheduled trial suddenly say, yes, I want to defend this case and his attorneys, because they have no direction, have done nothing to prepare the case. That to me is a position that I will not put the Court in.

So I am in agreement with defense counsel that notwithstanding the lack of input from their client, they have

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 20 of 24 PageID #: 761

Proceedings

to undertake to prepare the best defense that they can. That is their ethical and legal obligations to do. But I don't think that April of next year is going to be any better than February of next year.

What I am going to do is this because I understand the government's logistical problems. I am going to reset the trial for whatever date in February or March the government says it can coordinate its witnesses. I will leave it open now, give you a couple of weeks, whatever I've got in February and March I will move to accommodate this case. And if you can be ready February 1st, then we will pick on February 1st. And if you cannot be ready until March 1st, then we will pick on March 1st.

But looking at the tasks that the defendants have to do which are onerous, I mean really onerous and yet perfectly necessary in a case like this, either it's going to get done by that timetable or it's not going to get done at all, in my view, and some of it is not going to get done at all.

So I think that's the new timetable I want to set that is going to keep a trial date open right now until I hear from the government as to what you want.

MR. ARIAL: Certainly, Your Honor. And just so the Court is aware, our main concern in terms of foreign witnesses are the Italian witnesses and we are meeting with them in the near term over the next week and so that will actually drive a

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 21 of 24 PageID #: 764

Proceedings

1 lot of our concerns --

THE COURT: Okay, you will get back to me when you can.

MR. ARIAL: It will likely be early February, but...

THE COURT: Okay. You know, it is essentially a four-month delay of the trial to make absolutely certain that this very difficult defendant has any due process concerns that are possible satisfied. And I think the investment of that time is well worth it, and as I said before, the government chose to bring a criminal prosecution in this manner. And doing so, we have to make some extra effort to make sure that as something we all concede is a very unorthodox case does not end up depriving the defendant of any process that he is possibly seeking.

So that's going to be the new timetable, and the government will let me know.

All right. Anything else?

We are still going to use October 24th as a status conference, just so we make sure that we are on track, but I am telling the defendant that it will have to be much more than you've given me so far to get a further adjournment.

Really, I am looking at what you told me you had to do. I am not disregarding any of that. I thought everything you said are things that really have to be done, and I do not think it is going to require or even tolerate much assistance

Case 1:12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG Document 124 Filed 07/20/16 Page 22 of 24 PagetD #: 765

Proceedings

1 | from the government, but that's the absolute.

And also I will mention, it is not that long for a case like this. I mean, my God, two years ago I tried a mafia case that was indicted in 2008, and it was tried in 2015 and the crimes had occurred in the 1990s. So these things happen in these cases.

MR. ARIAL: I understand, Your Honor, and it's just that this case has had some lags and we're looking for finality.

The only thing else I would request is with respect to the trial date, that when we submit a proposed trial date that we also set a motion schedule or a proposed motion schedule upon agreement by the parties so that we have some clarity because there are other hearings that could come up beforehand that are complicated as well and we'll want to get those done.

THE COURT: I think that's a good point. If it's possible, I'd like to have motions filed by October 24th.

MR. ARIAL: That's feasible and it's certainly reasonable with a couple of exceptions, maybe some in limine issues that we may not be able to forecast.

Another issue is, obviously, that depending on what we get and, you know, where we are by that time. The other is -- and, obviously, we will working on this in the interim, sometimes the CIPA stuff takes a little bit longer.

Proceedings

THE COURT: Well, I factored that in, okay. You've told me the difficulties with that in your letter, and I agree with you, and I'm thinking how much time can this take. And like I said, you're either going to get to the bottom of that within this time or you're not. So I am taking that into account.

MR. ARIAL: Your Honor, I think in terms of in limine issues, I think that those are particularly the types of things that we should be dealing with earlier rather than later given the nature of the case and the classified issues that could come up, because many of the in limine issues ultimately are going to be the most difficult issues that we are going to have address before trial.

THE COURT: I want those motions made by October 24th, to the extent they're based on information that was known prior to October 24th.

MR. ARIAL: And that was my point, Your Honor.

THE COURT: If something comes up later, it will come up later, but there has to be cause to make a motion later than October 24th.

The other thing with the in limine motion is before you file them, please talk to your adversary. Sometimes these things get consented to and filed for no reason and that will save everyone a lot of time. Okay?

Anything further we need to address?

Case :	t. 12-cr-00134-BMC-MDG 	
	Proceedings	
1	MR. STERN: Not from us.	
2	MR. ARIAL: No, Your Honor.	
3	In terms of speedy trial, though, we would ask that	
4	time be excluded because of the complexity of the case and the	
5	motions and the trial schedule as it is.	
6	THE COURT: All right, that's fine. At this point I	
7	will exclude time until October 24th. I have previously found	
8	the case to be quite obviously complex. I expect I will	
9	exclude more time until the trial, once we know what the	
10	actual start date is. And the government will get back to me	
11	with that as soon as possible. But for now, time is excluded	
12	until October 24th.	
13	Okay, thank you all.	
14	MR. ARIAL: Thank you.	
15	THE COURT: Thank you, marshals, I appreciate your	
16	efforts.	
17	(Matter concluded.)	
18		
19	* * * *	
20		
21	I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the	
22	record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.	
23	/s/ Linda D. Danelczyk June 27th, 2016	
24	LINDA D. DANELCZYK DATE	
25		